

BIBLICAL ESCHATOLOGY¹ IN A NUTSHELL OUTLINE

I. Basic Biblical understanding in both the Old and New Testament.

The eschatological understanding of the early Jews including the time of Christ and that of He Himself is simply this. The history of man is divided into two ages:

THIS PRESENT AGE	AND	THE AGE TO COME
This present age is the age of human rule. Satan, the ruler of this world by whose influence people rule and are directed.		The age to come is the age of divine or (Messianic) rule.

II. BUT BETWEEN THE TWO AGES - THERE ARE:²

A. The “Last Days” of the present age and

The “Last Days” Began at Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:15-21) The proclamation of the Gospel to the whole world by His people is to occur before the end of the age comes. Matthew 24:14



B. The “End Time” (or “situation”) of the last days

of the present age. Begins with the reign of the the “Man of Lawlessness” often called the “Antichrist.” II Thessalonians 2:3-8; I John 2:18. War against the church- “the great tribulation.” Matthew 24:9-13; 24:21-25; Revelation. 13:4-8 A great falling away from the faith: I Timothy 4:1; II Thessalonians 2:3; II Timothy 4:3-4.

III. The “End Time” as it merges into the age to come - (The oncoming fulfillment of the Kingdom of God)

A. Terrifying cosmic and planetary disturbances occur just prior and at Christ’s return.

Acts 2:19-21; Mark 13:24-27
Luke 21:25-28; Revelation 1:7

B. The commencement of the Day of the Lord. and judgment on the beast and false prophet.

Joel 1:15; 2:1; 2:11; 2:31; 3:14;
Zephaniah 1:14-18; I Thessalonians 5:2-3;
II Thessalonians 1:6-10; 2:8-9; Rev. 19:20;

C. The joyful “wedding feast” of the lamb.

Matthew 22:2-14; Matthew 25:1-13;
Revelation 19:6-10

D. Satan is imprisoned and Messiah Christ Jesus rules over the Earth with His saints for 1,000 years. Revelation 20:1-3; Revelation 20:2-7; II Timothy 2:12a.

E. Final episodes and conclusion.

Satan is released and the world once again gets to decide whom it will worship. It chooses poorly.

F. The Great Judgment.

Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 17:30-31 Rev. 20:11-15; Daniel 12:1-4; Matthew 7:21-23; Revelation 20:7-10; Matthew 13:40-43

G. Satan, the False Prophet and the beast thrown into the lake of fire. Matthew 25:41; II Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 14:9-10, 20:10-15.

H. A new heavens and earth are created Isaiah 65:17-19, 66:22; II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-5. 1:9;

¹ “Eschatology” is the study of the biblical themes relating to the culmination of all things. The term comes from the Greek “eschatos” meaning “last”, “end” or “culmination.” This theme depicts the end of human history into the time of the promised kingdom of God where the Messiah rules and these hopes are fulfilled.

² Quotations from the Book of Revelation are often interpreted in different ways. I have used them only as an illustration of the theme.

BIBLICAL ESCHATOLOGY IN A NUTSHELL³

I. Basic Biblical understanding in both the Old and New Testament.

The eschatological understanding of the early Jews, including the time of Christ and that of He Himself, is simply this: The history of man is divided into two ages:

A. THIS PRESENT AGE AND B. THE AGE TO COME

Some relevant scriptures attesting to this:

Daniel 12:13, "But as for you, go *your way* to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise *again* for your allotted portion at the *end of the age.*"

Matthew 12:32, "'Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, *either in this age or in the age to come.*"

Mark 10:29-30, 29: "Jesus said, 'Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30: but that he will receive a hundred times as much *now in the present age,* houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; *and in the age to come,* eternal life."

Ephesians 1:18-21, 18: "*I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19: and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20: which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21: far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, *not only in this age but also in the one to come.*"

Galatians 1:3-5, 3: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4: who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from *this present evil age,* according to the will of our God and Father, 5: to whom *be* the glory forevermore. Amen." ⁴

(Italics in bold are mine)

Colossians 1:13, "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son..."

This age is the age of human rule.
And Satan is the ruler of this world
by whom people rule and are directed.

The age to come is the age of divine
(Messianic) rule.

³ The outline and study presented here are Bible based and will conflict with the doctrine and teachings of many churches. Note the emphasis in the Bible that warns against listening to and believing false prophets, teachers and their doctrine. Note II B below.

⁴ Some other references are: Matthew 13:39-40; 13:49; 24:3; 28:20; Luke 16:8; Luke 18:30; Luke 20:34-35; I Corinthians 1:20; I Corinthians 2:6-8; Titus 2:12; Hebrews 6:4-6.

A. Some relevant scriptures describing – “This age.” First, the ruler of this world, Satan, is confirmed as the one who influences and directs the leaders, rulers and population of the earth.

Acts 26:18, “...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God,

Ephesians 6:12, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness...”

John 12:31: "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”

Ephesians 2:1-2, 1: “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2: in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

I John 5:19, “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.”

Revelation 12:9, “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”⁵

B. Some relevant scriptures – the “age to come.” There are so many references to this that only a brief, sample listing is supplied.

Psalms 22:25-29, 25: “From You *comes* my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him. 26: The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever! 27: All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations will worship before You. 28: For the kingdom is the LORD'S And He rules over the nations. 29: All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, All those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep his soul alive.”

Isaiah 2:2-4, 2: “Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. 3: And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4: And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.”

Daniel 2:44, "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”

Daniel 7:13-14, 13: "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before

⁵ Some other references: Luke 22:53; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Romans 1:29; Ephesians 6:12-20; II Corinthians 4:4; II Timothy 2:8-12; 2:19; II Timothy 3:1-7; etc.

Him. 14: "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed."

Daniel 7:18: "But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come."

Zechariah 14:9, "And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only* one, and His name *the only* one."

Luke 1:30-33, "The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31: "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32: "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33: and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

I Thessalonians 4:15-18, 15: "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16: For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17: Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18: Therefore comfort one another with these words."

Revelation 11:15, "Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

II. BETWEEN THE TWO AGES - THESE ARE:

A. The "last days" of the present age and B. The "end time" (and situation) of the present age

A. The last days of this present age - relevant scriptural passages.

Peter's message at Pentecost, Acts 2:15-21, 15: "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day; 16: but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 17: 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; 18: EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. 19: 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. 20: 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. 21: 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.' [The above passage encompasses both the "Last Days" and the "End time."]

Hebrews 1:1-2, 1: “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2: in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

So, we have confirmation that the “Last Days” began at the resurrection of Christ and the formation of His church on earth to proclaim the message of salvation.

II Timothy 3:1-5, 1: “But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2: For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3: unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4: treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5: holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.”

In warning Timothy about these people and that they should be avoided is further evidence that they were in the “last days.”

II Peter 3:3-4, 3: “Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, 4: and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." There is more, but this gives us an idea of the environment in the “last days.”

Jesus had much to say about this time. In Matthew 24:3, His disciples ask, ““Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

The remainder of the chapter through verse 28, Jesus describes the time until He returns. He does this in typical Jewish fashion, repeating the themes using different images. This teaching is also recorded in Luke, chapter 21 and Mark, chapter 13.

This will be delineated in section B. below. The Old Testament also looks ahead to the “last days”

Hosea 3:5, “Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.”

Micah 4:1, “And it will come about in the last days. That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it.”

B. The “end time” (and situation) of the present age – relevant scriptural passages.

In Matthew 24:3 Jesus’ disciples ask Him, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" Jesus tells them of the many difficulties that the earth and civilization will experience (verses 3-8) but that the end of the age itself will be known by certain specific events:

1. Matthew 24:9-14, 9: "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10: "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. 12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13: "But the

one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 14: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."

2. Matthew 24:15-27, 15: "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16: then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. 17: "Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. 18: "Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. 19: "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20: "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. 21: "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 22: "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. 23: "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There *He is*,' do not believe *him*. 24: "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25: "Behold, I have told you in advance. 26: "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, *or*, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe *them*. 27: "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be."

The apostle Paul also explains this time. In II Thessalonians 2:1-12 he writes,

1: "Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2: that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.⁶ 3: Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4: who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5: Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6: And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7: For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way. 8: Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9: *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10: and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11: For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12: in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness."⁷

4. I Timothy 4:1, "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons..."

5. II Timothy 4:3-4, 3: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but

⁶ The time of Christ's return and subsequent events. These are discussed in my commentary on the Book of II Thessalonians found on my website, www.bibleclassroom.org. Also see on the same site under "controversial topics" Topic XXII, "WHAT IS ALL THE FUSS AND ARGUMENT ABOUT - REGARDING THE COMING OF CHRIST, THE "RAPTURE" AND THE "GREAT TRIBULATION?"

⁷ See footnote 1.

wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4: and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.”

6. II Peter 2:1-3, 1: “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2: Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3: and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

There are so many more warnings against listening to and believing false teachers and prophets that they are too numerous to mention. For example, I John 4:1, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” Jesus said in Matthew 7:15-16, “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16: “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they?”

Even throughout the Old Testament, the warnings are ample such as in Jeremiah 14:13-14, “But, ‘Ah, Lord GOD!’ I said, ‘Look, the prophets are telling them, ‘You will not see the sword nor will you have famine, but I will give you lasting peace in this place.’ 14: ‘Then the LORD said to me, ‘The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.’”

7. Isaiah 47:13, “You are wearied with your many counsels; Let now the astrologers, Those who prophecy by the stars, Those who predict by the new moons, Stand up and save you from what will come upon you.”

8. Jeremiah 5:31, “The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their *own* authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?”

One warning is to recognize that a true prophet of the Lord would never do it for money.

9. Jeremiah 6:13, “For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is greedy for gain, And from the prophet even to the priest Everyone deals falsely.

10. Ezekiel 22:25, “There is a conspiracy of her prophets in her midst like a roaring lion tearing the prey. They have devoured lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in the midst of her.”

It is my opinion that all the religions of the world as well as most so called “Christian” churches fall not the trap of preaching and teaching false doctrines and prophecies with most requiring some sort of financial or sacrificial offering to boot. I recently watched a church broadcast about these times taught in the Bible. They insisted that any teaching of this sort had to be Bible based. They then proceeded to teach a bunch of stuff that was not Bible based at all but based in the theology and doctrines of men.⁸

⁸ See: Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 16:17-18; Colossians 2:8; II Timothy 2:17-18; II Timothy 4:3; II Peter 2:1-3; II Corinthians 12: 11-15; and many more such passages.

That is why so many teach the false doctrine of the “pre-tribulation rapture.” They fail to distinguish between the very prominent teaching called “the Day of the Lord” or “The Day of God’s wrath” and the “Great Tribulation” Jesus spoke of and is mentioned several times in the New Testament. The claim is that Jesus will return for His people before the Great Tribulation and that they will be saved from suffering it. But the “Great Tribulation” is indeed the persecution and attack on believers such as has never been experienced before and will kill multitudes of His people. After that attack and persecution, He will come, receive those who are His in the air and they will forever be with Him. These will, however, be long gone when “The Day of the Lord” hits all the people who remain on the earth, especially those who have attacked and killed His people.

Again, Jesus said in Matthew 24:21-22, 21: "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 22: "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."

In John 16:32-33 Jesus said to His disciples, 32: "Behold, an hour is coming, and has *already* come, for you to be scattered, each to his own *home*, and to leave Me alone; and *yet* I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33: "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." Those who teach that Christian believers will never suffer in this world are desperately misled and misinformed.

This persecution of His people will be instigated by an end time world ruler called “the Man of lawlessness” by Paul⁹, the “Beast” in Revelation 13 that says in verses 7-8, 7: It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. 8: All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.” This individual is often called “The Antichrist,” a title only used once in I John 2:18, but also used of those who deny Christ’s appearance as being in the flesh or actually the Son of God.¹⁰ This individual will instigate the “Great Tribulation.”

The seven seals broken on the Book of Revelation correspond dramatically with Jesus Olivet discourse in Matthew 24. Regarding persecution of the saints, we read in 6:9-11,

9: “When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10: and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11: And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.”

Then in verses 29-30 Jesus taught, 29: "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS

⁹ II Thessalonians 2:3.

¹⁰ The term is only found in I John 2:18,22; 4:3 and II John 1:7. (These comments are a direct attack on the false teachings of the Gnostics.)

WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.¹¹ 30: "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory."

These overpowering signs in the cosmos at the coming of Christ and the onslaught of the "Great and Terrible Day of God's Wrath¹²" are foretold in many scriptural passages. Here are some references: Isaiah 13:6; 13:9; Ezekiel 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1; 2:11; 2:31; 3:14; Amos 5:18; Obadiah 1:15; Zephaniah 1:7-18; 2:2-3; Malachi 4:5; Acts 2:20; I Thessalonians 5:2-3; II Thessalonians 2:1-17.

Peter has a poignant teaching as well.

II Peter 3:3-8,

3: "Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, 4: and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." 5: For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, 6: through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. 7: But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8: But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day."

The period and situation of the "end time" of the present age can be summarized simply. Those belonging to Christ will be persecuted and annihilated under the direction of a "man of Lawlessness" who gains world wide power under the control of Satan. He is also called the "beast" and the "antichrist." This period is given as 3 ½ years.¹³ Due to his power to do "signs and wonders"¹⁴ many will succumb to the belief he is the Christ and submit to his person and his presence in worship. False teachings will have been imbedded in many who "believe," and they will be persuaded to do so. As Jesus said, "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many." Matthew 24:9-11¹⁵

This will be also stimulated by great fear as the planet will be undergoing cosmic displays and terrors.

"There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken." Luke 21:25-26

"And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will

¹¹ Here Jesus quotes Joel 2:30.

¹² Malachi 4:5;

¹³ Revelation 11:2; 13:5

¹⁴ Mark 13:22; Matthew 24:24.

¹⁵ See also II: Thessalonians 2:1-12

mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. Matthew 24:30-31.

I Thessalonians 4:15-18, 15: "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16: For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17: Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18: Therefore comfort one another with these words."¹⁶

Immediately and soon after this, then the "Great and Terrible Day of The Lord" will ensue. As Paul notes, "Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. II Thessalonians 2:8-12."¹⁷

The unleashing of God's wrath on the earth will commence. This is described numerous times in both the Old and New Testaments. Some representative passages are noted on page 7 paragraph 6. In addition, Peter says this,

9: "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 10: But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11: Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12: looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13: But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells." II Peter 3:9-13.

Isaiah says this,

9: "Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. 10: For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light. 11: Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless. 12: I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold And mankind than the gold of

¹⁶ See Also: Daniel 12:1-4. For a full study on this theme, please see: www.bibleclassroom.org, Controversial Topics, topic XXII.

¹⁷ Revelation chapter 19 also describes this time.

Ophir. 13: Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the LORD of hosts In the day of His burning anger.” 13:9-13

And Nahum 1:2-6,

2: A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies. 3: The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet. 4: He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; He dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither; The blossoms of Lebanon wither. 5: Mountains quake because of Him And the hills dissolve; Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence, The world and all the inhabitants in it. 6: Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire And the rocks are broken up by Him.”

Malachi 4:1-2,

1: "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch." 2: "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.”¹⁸

It appears, in my opinion, that this pouring out of God’s wrath is designed not only as a judgment on the earth, but also for any possible people left that can be motivated to do so to repent and turn to Him.¹⁹

Once this great judgment has passed the scene changes to what is termed the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb.” Many ancient (and some modern) Jewish wedding celebrations portray the time of the end period where His people await the coming of the bridegroom for the bride. The time is unknown and the bride must be ready at any time.

Matthew 25:1-13, 1: "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2: "Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. 3: "For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4: but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. 5: "Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep. 6: "But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.' 7: "Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8: "The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9: "But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *some* for yourselves.' 10: "And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. 11: "Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' 12: "But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' 13: "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.”

Revelation 19:7-9, 7: "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the

¹⁸ See footnote 10

¹⁹ Revelation 16:9

Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." 8: It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9: Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

This begins the time of "The Age to Come." The "age to come" is also divided into segments, the first being the rule of Messiah Jesus and His saints upon the earth for what John in Revelation notes is a thousand years.²⁰ Satan is bound at this time. Then we have Satan released and he once again deceives much of the world and raises an army to attack the Messiah. But he is defeated and thrown into the lake of fire along with the beast and false prophet.

Then comes the great final judgment, and the disintegration of the universe. A new heavens and earth are created, and righteousness and peace exist for all creation in which those who are his will dwell.²¹

²⁰ Revelation 20:3-7

²¹ II Peter 3:13; Isaiah 65:17-25; Micah 4:3-5; Isaiah 2:1-5; Zechariah 9:9-10; Etc.